

the RARS **Exciter**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

October, 2003 Number 390



Bill KG4CXY and Eric KF4OTN



Photos by Jim KG4FIJ & Bill KG4CXY

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society or ARLHS (www.arlhs.org) is a society committed to celebrating and promoting the restoration of historic Lighthouses worldwide. The ARLHS sponsors several contest-like QSO parties every year, one of which is the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (ILLW). The ILLW QSO party coincides with the annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Day, celebrated on the third Sunday of August each year. See story on page 9

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President:	Bernard Blackmon W4BRB 919-467-8719 bernardb@mindspring.com
Vice-President:	Andy Peterson NI4S 919-845-6251 ni4s@arrl.net
Secretary:	Jim Walter KG4FIJ 919-468-5358 jwalter@nc.rr.com
Treasurer:	Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919-859-0029 ke4pax@arrl.net
Exciter Editor:	Denyse Walter KG4CXR 919-468-5358 kg4cxr@nc.rr.com



INFO

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

WEB SITE <http://www.rars.org>

NEXT RARS MEETING:
October 7, 2003
AUCTION
SPECIAL START TIME 7:00

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: *Every first Tuesday of the Month*

Location: *Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh*

Time: *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.*

VE TESTING: *The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing which is on even months except April and December. Please bring a photo ID, your original current license if you have one, and any CSEs you need for credit. Check into the 8:00 pm net every night on the 146.64 repeater or www.rars.org for information.*



RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE
Membership renewals can be paid at RARS meetings, paid on-line, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:
Greg Seamster
RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606
RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. You can join or renew your membership online using a secure credit card payment process. See the RARS website www.rars.org for more information to sign up for RARS membership or renew 1, 2, or 3 years.

RARS AUCTION

The RARS Auction is a month earlier than it used to be, at the October meeting. That lets us hold the auction in the downstairs dining room, which is easier to cart equipment in and out of.

We'll start a half-hour earlier than usual club meetings, too, at **7:00 PM**. We'll open the doors to bring equipment in at 6:00 PM. At 7, we'll hold a brief business meeting, and then get the auction underway.

SELLERS: Be sure to mark your equipment clearly with your name and call. Also mark:

What it is (Frammistat 1000 analog kibitzing decoder)
Condition (worked last time I tried it, about 10 years ago)
Minimum bid accepted

BUYERS: Come in early (6:30 or so) and look over the stuff. Ask questions **BEFORE** the auction starts! We can't stop the proceeding for a tutorial.

Buyers pay sellers directly. Expect to pay cash, and bring some small bills to make change. The club does not take a "cut" of the transaction. You may donate part of all of an item's proceeds to the club if you wish. This is tax deductible, and the treasurer will give you a receipt.

"Big Ticket" items are sometimes a hard-sell, especially if you're looking for "market price." This is bargain-time. You might sell an HT or two-meter mobile at \$50-\$200. Probably not a \$400 HF rig.

All items should be reasonably ham-computer related. The club and auctioneer reserve the right to reject items not related to ham radio.

Have fun!

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135
Repeaters are supported by PCRN
if you would like to donate please
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More info on PCRN:
<http://www.pcrn.net>

NET REPORTS FOR AUGUST, 2003

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 464
Traffic 23/18
Time 703 minutes
Sessions 31

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 50
Traffic 1/1
Time 349 Minutes
Sessions 9

MINUTES OF THE RARS MEETING Tuesday, September 2, 2003

MINUTES OF THE RARS MEETING, Tuesday, September 2, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by V.P. Andy Peterson NI4S.

Visitors: Andy KG4GKP, David KG4IVI, James WJ2F, and Bruce W4EKI.

Treasurer's Report (Greg KE4PAX): There are currently 231 members

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Marian K1MRB conveyed the appreciation of the MS Society for our past participation in their events. Also reminded that MS-150 is coming up, and positions are still available for anyone who would like to participate.
- KN4AQ reminded that the State Fair is coming up, and we will again be asked to provide communications support for the Red Cross. Email KG4HDT@arrl.net if you'd like to participate.
- KN4AQ announced the successful completion of recent "Weekend Warrior" Technician Class. Conveyed the need for volunteers to step up and provide "Elmering" for current and future new hams.
- NI4S announced the annual RARS auction will be held during the next (Oct) meeting, which will start a half hour earlier at 7 PM.

Program: "The World of DX", presented by Andy NI4S, Jeff AC4ZO, Bob K4RLC, and Mary KG4OQA.

Door Prizes won by KS4VX and KG4PFA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

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Note: This issue of the Exciter includes a current membership roster. The roster has been removed from the on-line version.



Special Recognition:

Camille Durfee has passed her exam at the Handi-Hams camp in Rochester, Minnesota. We'll be waiting to hear from her on a specially prepared radio made by Israel N4ZVU in the next few days.

CONGRATULATIONS
CAMILLE

CAROLINA

440

RAGCHEW

444.925 Durham	444.325 Holly Springs
444.375 Henderson	444.150 Clayton
444.775 Cary	PL Tones = 100.0Hz
Monday nights at 7:30pm	

KD4RAA/K4JDR Repeater Group

Eric and Bill's Excellent Adventure

By Bill KG4CXY

Front Cover Story

As with most things of this sort, the beginning is deceptively simple. You drive through a small town in Eastern NC (Plymouth), you see a construction site for a lighthouse restoration, and the ball starts rolling from there. Actually, I wish we could take credit for the initial idea. But it was Kelly Andrews (KD4AWG) who did the prospecting for this endeavor. It was an ironic twist that Kelly had to be out of State during our Excellent Adventure weekend.

Some background first. There is a group of Lighthouse-loving radio operators who go by the name of the "Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society", or ARLHS (www.arlhs.org). The society is committed to celebrating and promoting the restoration of historic Lighthouses worldwide. The ARLHS sponsors several contest-like QSO parties every year, one of which is the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (ILLW). The ILLW QSO party coincides with the annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Day, celebrated on the third Sunday of August each year.

These QSO parties sponsored by the ARLHS encompass many different stations & operators. The basic name of the game is to contact as many Lighthouses during the QSO party as possible. Points are awarded based on the band being worked, the operating mode, etc. Our objective in all of this was not to contest, but to "activate" a Lighthouse for other stations to contact.

The Roanoke River light has only recently been restored after falling into the Albemarle Sound 50 years ago. Rather than activating one of the better known Lights (Cape Lookout, Corolla, Hatteras, etc.) we thought that we would instead (a.) publicize a lesser known historical attraction that (b.) would be a popular Lighthouse to QSO since this would be a first-time activation.

So plans were laid for the activation of the Roanoke River Lighthouse (Number 694 in the International Lighthouse Database). Eric Christensen (KF4OTN) is a native of Plymouth. We used his callsign for the event station. Lighthouses are hot tourists properties nowadays, and the Plymouth locals have been overwhelmed with strangers crawling over the half-finished structure. Eric was invaluable in smoothing over local concerns about our use of the lighthouse for this event.

SHOWTIME!

We arrived the afternoon before activation. And of course it rained. Not just little showers, but frog-choking downpours that continued off and on all afternoon. But nothing can stop a motivated Ham! We got drenched stringing two dipoles on either side of the Lighthouse; a 140 foot and an 80 foot G5RV. After tuning the antennas up, we were ready for some QSOs.

It was a busy day. Eric ran his beloved 30 year old Kenwood TS-520S (which once the tubes warmed up and stabilized, was quite a nice rig). This thing was a real piece of work – smelled up the entire Lighthouse with that "warm tube smell". I ran a bare-bones ICOM IC-730.

We had no intentions of running a contest-level station. So we turned in about 11:00 pm that night. We were also blessed with various Ham visitors. Even though we made several QSOs in Europe/South America we were still hampered by our rig limitations. Everything aside, its still nice to be on the receiving end of a pile up!

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MY SHACK

LARRY WIANDT N4LEW

Well, here's the scoop on my shack. I have an Icom 718 for 160 - 10 meters and an Icom 2100 for 2 meter work. About 50 ft up in the pines I have installed a G5RV antenna which, along with a tuner works pretty well for the HF rig. For the two meter rig I use a copper pipe j-pole that I made out of miscellaneous stuff from my garage. I've got the j-pole in the attic and get good reports on the local repeaters. The G5RV works pretty well, I've worked as far as California to the west and made England one time to the east.

Lately I mostly worked 20 and 17 meters. But I've been on most of the other bands off and on. I have a tower and a triband beam that I hope to get up soon, I just need to collect a few more things before I set it up. It all takes time.

The "shack" consists of an antique (approx 1900 vintage) ladies writing desk. Definitely not your typical ham shack furniture but it gets the job done.

MINUTES RARS BOARD MEETING July 15, 2003

Minutes of the RARS board meeting, July 15, 2003.

Members present at the meeting were: W4BRB KN4AQ KE4PAX W8HYD K4HF KG4OQA WA2UZO NI4S KG4CXR K4HM W4BRB called the meeting to order at 7:28pm.

On a motion by K4HM, seconded by WA2UZO, the August board meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are currently 307 members, of which 137 have renewed for 2003-2004. Expenses during the past month included 50 copies of "Now You're Talking" for upcoming classes. Greg is working to schedule a regular financial review. The club tax return and 501(3)c paperwork is due now that the 2002-2003 fiscal year is closed. Greg will also prepare a report from a recent IRS seminar.

Vice President (NI4S): The August meeting is "Tales from Dayton" - KN4AQ's video diary from this year. Andy is trying to put together a "DX" program for September.

FM Committee: No report.

Exciter (KG4CXR): Denyse is trying to collect some pictures of members' shacks for inclusion in upcoming issues.

Net Manager (KG4OQA): The nets continue to get new check-ins who turn into regular check-ins, which is encouraging.

Webmaster (WA2UZO): All quite on the web-stern front. Some Field Day pictures from various sources are now available on the web site.

Membership Services (KG4CXR): Denyse is making cards per request and sending out as needs be.

Hamfest (K4HM): Hamfest 2004 has been recommended to the board as the 2004 state convention. Planning will begin in upcoming months.

Field Day (N4HAF via W4BRB): W4DW's score and logs have been submitted.

Public Information (KN4AQ): 2 TV stations covered Field Day (News 14, and WB22). Gary had some interest from a local AM talk show and may do an interview. The ARRL is planning some new initiatives to help hams spread the word about Amateur Radio to the general public.

Education (KN4AQ for W4NOT): The first "Weekend Warrior" class is now taking registrations. Details have been posted on the web and in fliers. Gary mentioned the use of online prep-tests has been popular with students.

VE Team: The team will be testing this weekend at the Cary Hamfest.

Public Service: No report.

ARRL Liaison (K4HF): The WRC-2003 conference was held recently. The biggest news is the 7100-7200 worldwide amateur allocation which goes into effect in 2009. The League is currently soliciting donations from members. AMSAT has a matching membership funds program running through September.

Nominating Committee (K4HF): No activity as of now; will begin new cycle in August.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee: No report.

Current Business:

W8HYD reports that Camille has been accepted to Handi-Ham camp. Dick will coordinate with Israel for further information on how RARS can assist.

Financial Review Committee: The review will be scheduled soon.

New Business:

W8HYD brought up an idea of holding General/Extra classes. Dick would be willing to help with this. Consensus among the board was that this is something we should pursue, perhaps before end of year.

KE4PAX had sent a check to Amateur Radio Newsline that did not clear the bank. They had not received it, and he reissued one.

Upon motion by K4HM, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm. Respectfully submitted, NI4S for KG4FIJ, with thanks to KN4AQ and his laptop.

**The Central Carolina
Skywarn Net Meets
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM
on 146.88 Repeater**

Remember to give damage reports AFTER
the storms as well as DURING the storms.



Hurricane season is upon us. Be sure to have supplies, gear, batteries and any personal safety equipment on standby. Batteries should be fully charged and generators prepared and ready.

The Skywarn dinner will be Sunday September 28 at 6:00pm at the El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant in Raleigh. Address: 4112 Pleasant Valley Road. We will have the latest news from the NWS and our acting EC John VanPelt K4JVP, will update us on the upcoming weather, schedules, nets, etc.

Please join us for food and fellowship with Skywarn hams.

RARS NEW MEMBERS

AUGUST 2003

We would like to welcome our new members to RARS.
Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Keith Bugner	KI4BZC
Jerry Gault	KI4CCB
Jon Kerfoot	KG4ZVT
Mohamed Mahmoud	No License
Jim Rosengarth	KI4BRX



Join Us At the RARS Dinner



**On 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at
Hard Wok Buffet on Glenwood Ave.**

HAMFEST CALENDAR

September 20-21 **Virginia Beach, VA** Wesleyan College
October 12 * **Maysville, NC**
October 25 **Sumter, SC**
November 8 **Myrtle Beach, SC (new location)**
NOVEMBER 16 BENSON, NC
February 8 **Richmond, VA**
February 22 **Elkin, NC**
March 13-14 **Charlotte, NC**

* Date is not confirmed

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal



RED CROSS BUILDING AT FAIRGROUNDS ONLY A MEMORY



The old Red Cross

lounge at the State Fair is gone, but it will live on in the memory of RARS members who volunteered for years as Red Cross communicators each year at the fair.

The hams that work the fair every year at the Red Cross will be in a new location. Please listen to the radio for more information and updates.